

**THE PEOPLE'S FORUM**

**Letters to the Editor**

**That is to Say, Money Talks**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—Money is essentially a medium of exchange, but to be that it must be inherently exchangeable. If it has no inherent value it is simply a promise, and irredeemable promises are not goods. Paper "receivable" is receivable as long as it is in gold or its equivalent, gold being the unit of measurement because of its comparative stability. Such "receivable" notes, like the old "greenbacks," will circulate as par, of course, as long as they are sustained by the credit of the Government; but what is credit but reputation? The corporation obligations are not different in principle, but they do nothing but renew their notes in bankruptcy.

The Government, like any other corporation, pays in substance—that is, in gold or its equivalent—not in service, for the service is to the entire population, and the notes are in the hands of specific individuals, of course. The whole fallacy of "float" money has its root in the ability of a stable government to float a certain amount of "receivable" paper. But this is in reality pseudo-money, just as nickels and pennies are—a convenient device that is not questioned while the state is solvent. And the State is solvent only while it has the means of redeeming on probable demand the bulk of its outstanding notes in gold or its equivalent.

As to the present predicament of debtors: The slump in the market following slackened demand for goods and services is responsible. Fictitious expansion is always followed by collapse. The "wise ones" may buy on a rising market, but not when payment is to be made after the market declines.  
 W. A. TAYLOR,  
 Reading, Pa., April 18, 1922.

**Father of Veterans Needs Aid**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—A few weeks ago you stated in your esteemed paper that the Government is doing lots of good for the sick veterans and their dependents, so they won't have to go to any charitable institution. I am the father of two not only discharged soldiers, seventy years old, sick and unable to work. Before the war we got along fairly well, but since the war my two sons are not making good, as well as many others. I have been at the Veterans' Bureau, twentieth and Arch streets, and also the Red Cross, 216 South Nineteenth street, but was turned down in both places.  
 PAUL HANSLICK,  
 471 North Eighth street, Philadelphia, April 17, 1922.

**Wants Aliens Registered and Taxed**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—The Washington dispatches recently reported a bill introduced into the Senate by Senator Shortridge, of California, providing for the registration of all aliens within the country and for the imposition of a fee, virtually amounting to a poll tax, of \$2. The measure also would provide deportation or an additional tax of \$2 per month in cases where there was refusal to register or to pay the requisite fee. I think it a good bill and ought to be enacted into law.  
 What injustice, I ask, could there be in a measure which exacts from the alien certain recompense for the expenses of the Government under which he lives and under which he gains a livelihood, and oftentimes wealth? All in all, there is a great deal of absurdity in a plan which compels the American workman to contribute to the support of the Nation while the alien worker who competes with him escapes all but the incidental taxation to which all men are subjected.

Pennsylvania has a poll tax law which applies to all voters to pay a poll tax or a property tax. The alien, who is a non-voter, has an equal share in the benefits of government. He is equally protected in his life, person and property, and, in effect, he enjoys practically all the rights and benefits possessed by the citizen. It is eminently proper that he should contribute his share to pay for the benefits he receives.  
 The Shortridge bill is designed primarily to keep track of the horde of aliens who flock to this country. Possibly the California Senator had directly in mind the Orientals, although his measure would apply to the people of all countries.

If the newcomer desires to be relieved from the necessity for annual registration and the payment of head fees it would be up to him to do as early as possible go through the naturalization courts into citizenship, provided he is eligible. If he is not, then let the Government keep track of him so long as he is in the country.  
 LAURENCE ANDERSON BINNS,  
 Allentown, Pa., April 17, 1922.

**Easy Death After Easy Life**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—I read the other day—the day after Good Friday, when the body of our Lord lay entombed—that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who is in this country preaching his doctrine of spiritualism, had assured a large audience in New York that from his own observations—and he was a practicing physician in his earlier years—the passage from life to death is delightfully easy and that the future existence does not differ materially from that of earth, at least until a long time has elapsed after the loosening of the silver cord of which we read in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

In the exposition of his peculiar theories Sir Conan Doyle is doing much more harm than good? Is he not making "death" too easy and in doing so giving encouragement to a life of ease, contrary to the great law that rules the world in all its phases? Even if it should be granted that there is an ethereal or astral soul which Sir Conan claims to have seen pass from the physical body at the moment of dissolution, surely he does not mean to aver that the soul of man passes into elysium without further consideration of its preparedness. Such a contention is unnatural and not in accord with spiritual law. There is soul evolution which is also behind or above the physical evolution.

An easy death may be taken to mean an easy life and this is what civilization is suffering from today. Mankind has become indifferent to the present and the future and the "sufficient-for-the-day" policy is being carried to the extreme. Let us not make the severing of the "silver cord" too easy for all. We are not ready for it.  
 In the present condition of the world it would seem to me that a little more of Calvin and less of Doyle might be beneficial to humanity. And I'm not a "blackstocking" at that.  
 F. S. C.,  
 Lancaster, Pa., April 17, 1922.

**Walrus Words and Oil Stock**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—"Walrus words" that suck the meaning from a phrase have been duly made proverbial. There are also walrus words, stuff, lubberly and awkward, whose chief recommendation appears to be size. Once in a great while a newspaper reader comes across a really interesting school of walrus words disporting themselves in the shallows of absurd rhetoric. A contributor to the column of one devoted particularly to the investing public achieves the following paragraph:  
 "The universal directorship and a distribution of organic and

Inorganic material comes within the bounds of physical discrimination. Hydro-carbons we find in sedimentary rocks that was laid down in such profusion that organic action is constantly generating volatile substances in gaseated conditions that condenses and adds to our body of petroleum."  
 The writer of the foregoing signs himself "Pienollium," and adds that he thinks there is oil somewhere nearby. Also he knows about a plan whereby the hydro-carbon possibilities could be demonstrated by the resident pioneers in an associated body, the name of which he mentions, and "where an opportunity is open for every individual that is sincere in the faith of his country and his home may join for the purpose of carrying out this highly advisable development where the element of success so predominates the element of chance that only the unwise would consider the comparison."  
 All of which would seem to indicate that Pienollium seems to have some oil stock on hand and that he is an expert in the use of "walrus words."  
 TIMOTHY TITCOMB,  
 West Chester, Pa., April 18, 1922.

**Questions Answered**

**Wife's Assignment**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—Will you kindly give me an answer to the following question through the People's Forum:  
 "Can a wife legally assign her property to secure a debt to a trustee for the payment of a lawyer's fee to defend her husband in a criminal charge brought against him? If said assignment is obtained from the wife, who would be under a severe nervous strain or stress, can this property be legally sold by said lawyer or his representative for his fees."  
 GEORGE PORTER,  
 Philadelphia, April 18, 1922.

In Pennsylvania a wife could legally assign her property to secure a debt to a trustee for a lawyer's fee for defending her husband on a criminal charge against him, but it would seem that the husband ought to join in the assignment of said property. The property should be sold under the assignment. Such a practice, however, on the part of an attorney might well be inquired into by proper authorities, inasmuch as it is a doubtful practice, to say the least.

**"Prayer is Better Than Sleep"**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—I heard a friend of mine say a few days ago "Prayer is better than sleep" and asked her if it was a quotation. She said she thought it was, but could not give me its origin. I have failed to find it in any of the reference books I have consulted and am turning to the People's Forum or one of its readers for information. Will you give it to me?  
 HENRY F. C.,  
 Philadelphia, April 19, 1922.

The expression "Prayer is better than sleep" is from the morning call of the muezzin, or crier, who summons the faithful to prayer in Mohammedan countries.

**The "Judas Tree"**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—Is there a tree known as "the tree that leaves a scar on the heart?"  
 Philadelphia, April 18, 1922.

You probably have in mind the so-called "Judas tree," a genus of the Leguminosae family. It is so called because of a tradition that Judas Iscariot hanged himself on one of these trees.

**Poems and Songs Desired**

**"Humoresque" and "Evolution"**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—I am inclosing the words to "Humoresque" recently asked for by a reader. I would also advise that the poem "Evolution," requested a few weeks ago, was written by the late Landown Smith. This may be the one the reader asked for, instead of the one printed later. The first verse is as follows:  
 "When you were a tadpole and I was a fish,  
 In the Paleozoic time,  
 As I did slide on the ebbing tide  
 We swam through the ooze and slime."  
 I will be pleased to supply the rest of the poem, if wanted.  
 I would appreciate your printing a poem (the title of which I do not know) about a young Scotchman who took his wife and baby to live among the sandalwood logs of Australia. A very deadly, native snake of a vivid red color, and which travels except with its mate, was killed by him, who knew nothing of the danger in such an act, and his mate kills his wife and baby. Perhaps some reader can supply the verses. Thank you for your enjoyable column.  
 INTERESTED,  
 Atlantic City, April 17, 1922.

**HUMORESQUE**  
 Humoresque, ah! Humoresque, it seems to me your melody  
 sings out a message to this dreary earth.  
 Every breath brings nearer death;  
 So save your tears and brave your fears,  
 For we begin to die from birth.

Time's never flying; it's you who's dying;  
 Time cannot pass away;  
 So leave all your sorrow until tomorrow;  
 Live and laugh and love while you may.

Humoresque, the world is blessed,  
 For you have brought a happy thought  
 To every heart that mortal here below;  
 Every hearer loves more dear,  
 Yes, and heaven seems much nearer—  
 All because of you, Humoresque!

**Philadelphia and Penn**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
 Sir—Would you kindly publish in the People's Forum the words of two songs being sung:  
 First, Hail, Philadelphia, City of Penn.  
 Second, Hail, Pennsylvania.  
 Both are to the tune of God Ever Glorious, the Russian air.  
 ROBERT E. BLANC,  
 Philadelphia, April 15, 1922.

**HAIL, PHILADELPHIA**  
 Hail, Philadelphia! City of Penn.  
 Where Freedom and Justice met as fellow-men,  
 Beneath thy elm their oathless pledge was made;  
 On Peace and Right was thy foundation laid.

**HAIL, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 (University of Pennsylvania Hymn)  
 Hail, Pennsylvania,  
 Noble and strong,  
 To thee with loyal hearts  
 We raise our song,  
 Swelling to Heaven loud,  
 Our praises ring.  
 Hail, Pennsylvania,  
 To thee we pray:  
 Majesty as a crown  
 Rests on thy brow,  
 Pride, honor, glory, love,  
 Before thee bow,  
 Never can the spirit die  
 Thy walls decay.  
 Hail, Pennsylvania,  
 For thee we pray.

J. F. K.—The song you mention is copyrighted and cannot be reproduced without the author's permission.  
 The People's Forum will appear daily in the Evening Public Ledger, and the Sunday Public Ledger. Letters discussing timely topics will be printed, as well as required poems, and those of general interest will be accepted.

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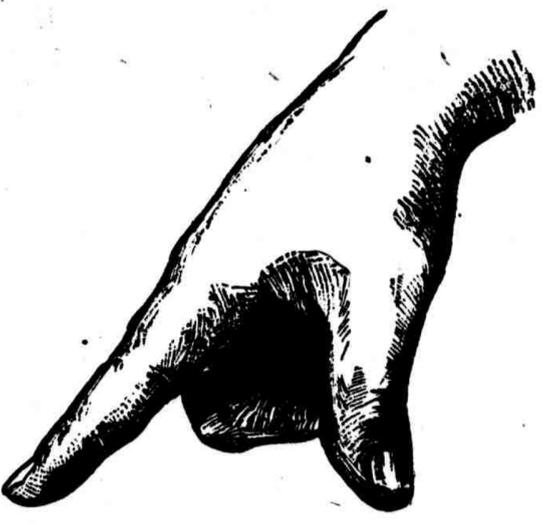



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